AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method in a <u>voter</u> computing system for confirming receipt of a ballot choice selected by a voter <u>as part of an election having an ending time</u>, comprising:

<u>before the election ending time,</u> receiving a first confirmation message from a first party, ~~the content of the first confirmation message confirming the identity of a ballot choice received for the voter by a vote collection authority; and~~

<u>before the election ending time,</u> receiving a second confirmation message from a second party that is independent of the first party,

the content of the <u>first and</u> second confirmation message ~~independently confirming~~ <u>being combinable to confirm</u> the identity of the ballot choice received for the voter by the vote collection authority.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the content of the first and second confirmation messages,

such that ~~both~~ the displayed first confirmation message and the displayed second confirmation message may be compared by the voter to expected vote confirmation messages for the ballot choice selected by the voter to determine whether a ballot choice other than the ballot choice selected by the voter has been received for the voter by the vote collection authority.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

combining the content of the first and second confirmation messages to obtain a combined confirmation message; and

displaying the combined confirmation message,

such that the displayed combined confirmation message may be compared by the voter to an expected combined vote confirmation message for the ballot choice selected by the

voter to determine whether a ballot choice other than the ballot choice selected by the voter has been received for the voter by the vote collection authority.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the combined confirmation message is obtained using concatenating content from each of the first and second confirmation messages.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the combined confirmation message is obtained using a threshold secret reconstruction technique.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second confirmation messages contains a value, and wherein the combined confirmation message is obtained by determining the product of the values contained in the first and second confirmation values.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second confirmation messages contains a first value and a second value, wherein the combined confirmation message is obtained by:
          determining the product of the first values contained in the first and second confirmation messages; and
          determining the product of the second values contained in the first and second confirmation messages.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a third confirmation message from a third party that is independent of the first and second parties, the content of the third confirmation message independently confirming being combinable with either of the first and second confirmation messages to confirm the identity of the ballot choice received for the voter by the vote collection authority.

9.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a voter computing system to confirm receipt of a ballot choice selected by a voter as part of an election having an ending time by:

before the election ending time, receiving a first confirmation message from a first party, the content of the first confirmation message confirming the identity of a ballot choice received for the voter by a vote collection authority; and

before the election ending time, receiving a second confirmation message from a second party that is independent of the first party,

the content of the first and second confirmation message independently confirming being combinable to confirm the identity of the ballot choice received for the voter by the vote collection authority.

10.   (Currently Amended) A voter computing system for confirming receipt of a ballot choice selected by a voter as part of an election having an ending time, comprising:

a confirmation receipt subsystem that, before the election ending time, receives both a first confirmation message from a first party and a second confirmation message from a second party, the second party being distinct from the first party, the content of the first and second confirmation message each independently confirming being combinable to confirm the identity of a ballot choice received for the voter by a vote collection authority.

11.   (Currently Amended) A computer memory device under the control of a voter containing a data structure for confirming receipt of a ballot choice selected by a voter as part of an election having an ending time, comprising:

a first confirmation message received from a first party before the election ending time, the content of the first confirmation message confirming the identity of a ballot choice received for the voter by a vote collection authority; and

a second confirmation message received from a second party that is independent of the first party before the election ending time,

the content of the first and second confirmation message ~~independently confirming~~ being combinable to confirm the identity of the ballot choice received for the voter by the vote collection authority.

12.   (Original) A method in a computing system for confirming receipt of a ballot choice selected by a voter, comprising:

sending to a first recipient via a first communications channel a confirmation dictionary for a first voter containing a list of ballot choice confirmation messages ordered in a first order; and

sending to the first recipient via a second communications channel that is distinct from the first communications channel a confirmation dictionary guide for the first voter indicating, for each of a plurality of valid ballot choices, a position in the first order containing a ballot choice confirmation message corresponding to the valid ballot choice, such that the first recipient may use the identity of the ballot choice selected by the first voter together with the confirmation dictionary guide to identify in the confirmation dictionary the ballot choice confirmation message corresponding to the ballot choice selected by the voter.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the first recipient is the first voter.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising randomly selecting the first order.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising sending to a second recipient via the first communications channel a second confirmation dictionary for a second voter containing a list of ballot choice confirmation messages ordered in a second order, the second voter being distinct from the first voter, the second recipient being distinct from the first recipient, the second order being distinct from the first order.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the second recipient is the second voter.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the list of ballot choice confirmation messages contained in the confirmation dictionary includes a ballot choice confirmation message not corresponding to any valid ballot choice.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the list of ballot choice confirmation messages contained in the confirmation dictionary includes a distinguished plurality of ballot choice confirmation messages, none of the distinguished plurality of ballot choice confirmation messages corresponding to any valid ballot choice.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

receiving a ballot choice confirmation message corresponding to a ballot choice received for the voter at a ballot collection entity; and

displaying the received ballot choice confirmation message so that the recipient can compare the displayed ballot choice confirmation message with the ballot choice confirmation message identified in the confirmation dictionary as corresponding to the ballot choice selected by the voter.

20.   (Original) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computing system to confirm receipt of a ballot choice selected by a voter by:

sending to a recipient via a first communications channel a confirmation dictionary containing a list of ballot choice confirmation messages ordered in a first order; and

sending to the recipient via a second communications channel that is distinct from the first communications channel a confirmation dictionary guide indicating, for each of a plurality of valid ballot choices, a position in the first order containing a ballot choice confirmation message corresponding to that valid ballot choice,

such that the recipient may use the identity of the ballot choice selected by the voter together with the confirmation dictionary guide to identify in the confirmation dictionary the ballot choice confirmation message corresponding to the ballot choice selected by the voter.

21.   (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the contents of the computer-readable medium further caused the computer system to:

receive a ballot choice confirmation message corresponding to a ballot choice received for the voter at a ballot collection entity; and

display the received ballot choice confirmation message so that the recipient can compare the displayed ballot choice confirmation message with the ballot choice confirmation message identified in the confirmation dictionary as corresponding to the ballot choice selected by the voter.

22.   (Original) A computing system for confirming receipt of a ballot choice selected by a voter, comprising:

a first transmission system coupled to a first communications channel that sends to a recipient a confirmation dictionary containing a list of ballot choice confirmation messages ordered in a first order; and

a second transmission system coupled to a second communications channel that is distinct from the first communications channel that sends to the recipient a confirmation dictionary guide indicating, for each of a plurality of valid ballot choices, a position in the first order containing a ballot choice confirmation message corresponding to the valid ballot choice,

such that the recipient may use the identity of the ballot choice selected by the voter together with the confirmation dictionary guide to identify in the confirmation dictionary the ballot choice confirmation message corresponding to the ballot choice selected by the voter.

23. (Original) The computing system of claim 22 wherein the second transmission system sends the confirmation dictionary guide via a voice message.

24. (Original) The computing system of claim 22 wherein the second transmission system sends the confirmation dictionary guide via a postal mail message.

25. (Original) One or more generated data signals that collectively convey a randomized confirmation dictionary data structure, comprising a sequence of ballot confirmation strings, a subset of the ballot confirmation strings each corresponding to a different valid ballot choice, the order in which the ballot strings occur in the sequence being randomly selected,
such that it cannot be determined without a separate confirmation dictionary guide which of the ballot confirmation strings in the sequence correspond to which valid ballot choices.

26. (Original) The generated data signals of claim 25, wherein the ballot confirmation strings that correspond to valid ballot choices is a proper subset of the ballot confirmation strings in the sequence.

27.–36. Canceled.

37. (New) A method in a computing system for confirming receipt of a ballot choice selected by a voter, comprising:
        sending to a first recipient via a first communications channel a confirmation dictionary for a first voter containing a list of valid ballot choices in a first order; and
        sending to the first recipient via a second communications channel that is distinct from the first communications channel an indication of a position in the first order corresponding to the ballot choice selected by the first voter,
such that the first recipient may use the position indication together with the confirmation dictionary guide to identify the ballot choice selected by the voter.

38.   (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the position indication is a numerical index of a position in the first order corresponding to the ballot choice selected by the first voter.

39.   (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the position indication is a ballot choice confirmation value that can be transformed by the first recipient into a numerical index of a position in the first order corresponding to the ballot choice selected by the first voter.

40.   (New) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computing system to perform a method for confirming receipt of a ballot choice selected by a voter, the method comprising:

sending to a first recipient via a first communications channel a confirmation dictionary for a first voter containing a list of valid ballot choices in a first order; and

sending to the first recipient via a second communications channel that is distinct from the first communications channel an indication of a position in the first order corresponding to the ballot choice selected by the first voter,
such that the first recipient may use the position indication together with the confirmation dictionary guide to identify the ballot choice selected by the voter.

41.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the position indication is a numerical index of a position in the first order corresponding to the ballot choice selected by the first voter.

42.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the position indication is a ballot choice confirmation value that can be transformed by the first recipient into a numerical index of a position in the first order corresponding to the ballot choice selected by the first voter.